UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23248
26 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the press statement of the President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Mr. V. Havel, and of the President of Slovenia, Mr. M. Kucan, from the talks held on 20 November 1991 and the text adopted on the Initiative to Save Dubrovnik.

I would be most grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduard KUKAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press statement from the talks between the President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Mr. V. Havel, and the President of Slovenia, Mr. M. Kucan

On 20 November 1991, working negotiations took place between the Presidents of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Mr. Havel, and the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Kucan. During the talks, both parties discussed in detail not only the current situation in Yugoslavia and its possible solution but also mutual relations between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Slovenia on different levels. At the same time, talks were held between members of the two Governments responsible for economic relations.

Both parties noted that it is in the interest of the whole of Europe that the Yugoslav crisis be resolved in a peaceful way, through a dialogue of all the parties involved and with the assistance of the international community.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic stressed that the peace conference at The Hague has not yet made use of all its means and that it wants to continue taking an active part in the efforts of the international community aimed at resolving the Yugoslav crisis. The Czechoslovak party supports especially the activities of the European Community, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations and is putting through a joint activity mainly of the European States.

In case the peace talks are unsuccessful we would not put off further acknowledging the independence of Slovenia. In so deciding, we are inferring from the fact that the citizens of Slovenia have already expressed their desire in a constitutional way through a referendum.

Both parties have further agreed that they will deepen concrete cooperation between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Slovenia in the economic, political and cultural fields.

Initiative to Save Dubrovnik

The deep crisis in Yugoslavia and mainly the war in Croatia causes great casualties in terms of human lives and immense suffering. It is also menacing cultural sites, which are the common heritage of the whole of mankind. One of them is the historic centre of Dubrovnik, which up to now has not been destroyed by human hand. At present it is, however, being threatened and is in mortal danger as a consequence of heavy fighting with the use of the most advanced military technology.

The destruction of Dubrovnik or its damage would mean an irretrievable loss for the whole world. Future generations would be justified in considering such an act as one of the tragic consequences of our inability to cope in a peaceful way with the problems which are worrying us. Let us not allow the continuation of the suffering of its citizens.

We are therefore of the opinion that Dubrovnik and its surroundings must immediately be turned into a zone of peace which could be further extended to other territories of Croatia. We thereupon recommend that the United Nations peace-keeping forces start their mission in this very place.

We therefore call upon politicians of the whole world to give public support to our initiative.

---